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(54) Title: **METHODS FOR DETERMINING LEVELS OF HUMAN B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE PRECURSORS**

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides an alternate and more accurate assay for measuring the levels of BNP precursors, or fragments thereof, in a sample by determining the concentration of BNP precursors, or fragments thereof, in a sample obtained from a mammal, the method comprising treating the sample with an agent that cleaves the BNP precursor, and exposing the sample to an antibody that specifically binds to the cleaved product.